

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
7 April 2005 (07.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2005/032166 A1

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: H04Q 3/68,  
11/06, H04L 12/56

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2004/004148

(22) International Filing Date:  
29 September 2004 (29.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0322763.4 29 September 2003 (29.09.2003) GB  
0406661.9 24 March 2004 (24.03.2004) GB

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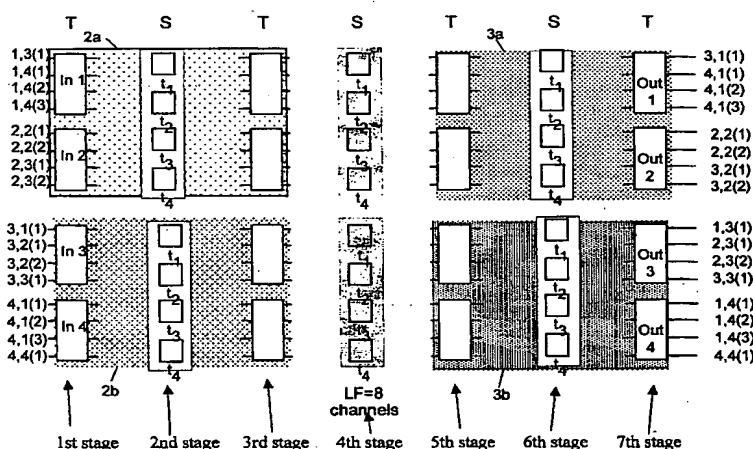
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CHANNEL ASSIGNMENT PROCESS



(57) Abstract: A channel assignment process for a multi-stage switch arrangement having a plurality of inputs arranged in a plurality of logical associations and a plurality of outputs, wherein time-slotted traffic is received by each logical association of inputs is operated on by one or more switching stages arranged to operate only on traffic provided by the respective logical association of inputs, the channel assignment process comprising: for each logical association, aggregating the time-slots carrying traffic from the inputs forming said logical association to form a channel comprising a plurality of logically associated time-slots; determining a path through a spatial switching stage of the switch arrangement arranged to receive a said channel from each of said logical associations of inputs of the switch arrangement; determining a path for each time-slot within each logical association such that a plurality of end-to-end time-space channels are provided for one or more inputs of the switch arrangement to their requested output via said channel through said spatial switching stage of the switch arrangement.

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SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— with international search report

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments

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ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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